

HOUSE BILL 871

By Rinks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "Community college" means an eligible two-year postsecondary institution operated by the board of regents of the state university and community college system that is denoted as a community college or a technical community college.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-921, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

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(1) A student, who is twenty-five (25) years of age or older and who is seeking a certificate in a program of study offered by a community college, shall be eligible for a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, if such student meets all applicable requirements of this section.

(2) A student who, as an entering freshman, receives a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant under the provisions of this subsection may apply for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as a nontraditional student within three (3) years of successfully completing a certificate program at a community college; provided, that the student meets all requirements of § 49-4-931, except that such student need not be an entering freshman when applying for the Tennessee HOPE scholarship. All semester hours attempted as a student with a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant that may be used for credit towards an associate or

baccalaureate degree shall be used in determining academic eligibility for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship. If a student has not attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours for credit towards an associate or baccalaureate degree as a student with a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant, the student shall attempt the remaining semester hours without funding from lottery proceeds. All semester hours attempted by a student with a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant that may be used for credit towards an associate or baccalaureate degree shall count towards the limit under § 49-4-913 on the number of semester hours that a Tennessee HOPE scholarship may be awarded. Semester hours attempted as a student with a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant that cannot be used for credit towards an associate or baccalaureate degree shall not be used in computing the limit for the award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under § 49-4-913. For purposes of calculating the limit under § 49-4-913 on the number of years for receipt of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, the date of the student's initial enrollment at a postsecondary institution shall be considered as the date on which the student first enrolled in a postsecondary institution, after completing a certificate program at a community college.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.